

REMARKS

In response to the restriction requirement in the Official Communication mailed November 21, 2005, Applicants hereby elects the species identified by the Examiner as Group II, while reserving the right to file continuation and divisional patent applications directed to the non-elected inventions.

By this Response, claims 1-16 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. New claims 41-56 are added and include an inflatable first layer having a plurality of support zones and a controller to control the pressure in each of the plurality of support zones. Thus, claims 17-56 are presently pending in the above-identified application and are species identified by the Examiner as Group II. Applicant submits that all of claims 17-56 are in condition for allowance. Such action is respectfully requested.

If necessary, Applicants request that this response be considered a request for an extension of time appropriate for the response to be timely filed. Applicants request that any required fees needed beyond those submitted with this response be charged to the deposit account of Bose McKinney & Evans, Deposit Account No. 02-3223.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below should any question or comments arise during the course of consideration of this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brion G. St. Amour', written over a horizontal line.

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